

37. A NEW *CEROPEGIA* LINN. (ASCLEPIADACEAE) FROM SAHYADRI RANGE IN MAHARASHTRA STATE

(With a plate)

***Ceropegia noorjahaniae* sp. nov.**

Pertinet ad sect. *Tiloris* Huber, series *Attenuatae* Huber, similis *Ceropegiae fimbriiferae* Bedd. differt tamen lobis corollae glabris sine capillis purpureis basalibus, corona exteriori glabra, interiori recta apice non-convergenti vel non-hamati.

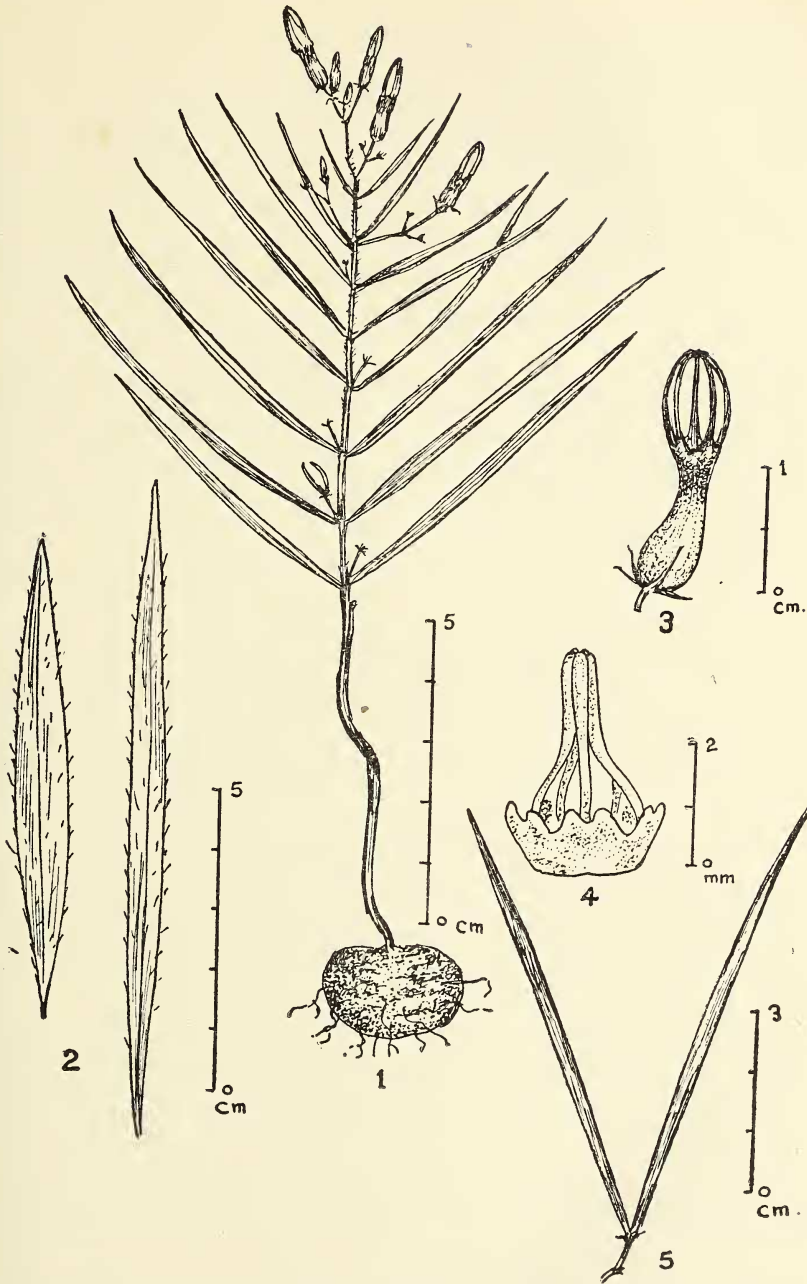
Holotypus (*Ansari* 104880A) et isotypi (*Ansari* 104880 B-K) lecti ad Wai-Panchgani ghat in dist. Satara in ditione Maharashtra die 5 Augusti anni 1970; holotypus positus in CAL; isotypi 104880 B-D in BSI, E in CAL; F in K; G in L; H in BLAT; I in MH; J in LE et K in MO; paratypi (*Ansari* 105098 A-B) lecti eodem loco die 16 Julii anni 1969 positi in BSI.

***Ceropegia noorjahaniae* sp. nov.**

Belongs to section *Tiloris* Huber, series *Attenuatae* Huber, and is similar to *Ceropegia fimbriifera* Bedd., but differs in its corolla lobes being glabrous, without any purple hairs at base; outer corona glabrous, inner corona erect with apex straight, non-convergent or non-hooked.

An erect perennial herb, 15-40 cm high with a sub-globose tuberous root. Stem terete, minutely pubescent in the upper, glabrous in lower region. Leaves oppositè, subsessile or petiolate; petiole 4-7 mm long, glabrous; linear leaves  $9 \times 0.3$  cm linear-lanceolate or lanceolate  $7 \times 1.5$  cm, acute at apex, tapering at base, hairy on the upper side, glabrous beneath except along mid-ribs, margins minutely hairy. Flowers usually 3, in axillary or extra-axillary umbellate cymes; peduncles 3-4 mm long, terete, glabrescent to glabrous; bracts subulate, 2-2.5 mm long; pedicels 6-7 mm long, glabrescent to glabrous. Calyx 5-partite, lobes 4 mm long, glabrous. Corolla 2-2.7 cm long, slightly curved; tube 1.2-1.4 cm long, inflated at base, in lower  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$  part, externally pale green in the lower  $\frac{3}{4}$  part, pale to dark purplish-brown in the upper  $\frac{1}{4}$  part up to the basal part of the corolla lobes, inside green with longitudinal purple lines, completely glabrous; lobes 0.9-1.3 cm long, nearly equal to the tube, linear oblong with acute apex and deltoid base, greenish above, pale to dark-purplish-brown near the base, margins partly reflexed all along, completely glabrous (without any long purple hairs at base) connate at tips, forming an ovoid head,

Ansari: *Ceropegia noorjahaniae*



*Ceropegia noorjahaniae* sp. nov.

1. The whole plant ; 2. Showing variations in leaves ; 3. A flower ; 4. Outer and inner corona ; 5. A pair of follicles.



Corona biseriate; outer corona cupular, of 5 bifid or deeply emarginate lobes  $\pm 1.25$  mm long, 3 mm across, purple, glabrous outside and along the margins; inner of 5 erect, pale-purple, processes, 3 mm long, glabrous, straight at tips (neither convergent nor hooked). Pollen masses erect, minute, yellow, attached to brown pollen carriers by very short caudicles. Pistil  $\pm 1.5$  mm long. Follicles in pair,  $9 \times 0.4$  cm long, tapering at both ends, glabrous. Seeds many,  $\pm 3.5 \times 2.5$  mm, ovate, margined; coma 20 mm long.

*Flowers*: July-August. *Fruits*: August-September.

The holotype (*Ansari* 104880A) and the isotypes (*Ansari* 104880 B-K) were collected along Wai-Panchgani ghat (on the upper slopes between milestones 10/3 and 10/4) in Satara district, Maharashtra State, on 5th August 1970. The holotype is deposited in CAL; the isotypes 104880 B-D in BSI; E in CAL; F in K; G in L; H in BLAT; I in MH; J in LE et K in MO. The paratypes (*Ansari* 105098 A and B) collected from the same locality on 16th July, 1969, are deposited in BSI.

Under the series *Attenuata* of section *Tiloris*, Huber (1957) records 3 erect forms with linear or linear-lanceolate leaves, namely *Ceropegia spiralis* Wt., *C. fimbriifera* Bedd. and *C. attenuata* Hook., all from India. Of these, the first two are so far reported from South India only and the last from Maharashtra and has not been located beyond North Kanara southward. Whereas *C. spiralis* has been keyed out as having stem and leaves glabrous, *C. fimbriifera* and *C. attenuata* are bracketed under stem and leaves more or less hairy. Of these 2 species the former has cymes 1-4-flowered with corolla lobes having long purple hairs at the base, whereas the latter has cymes uni-flowered and corolla lobes pubescent from inside with fine hairs all along the margins or glabrous sometimes. The present species has cymes 1-3-flowered and the flowers are more similar in outline to *C. fimbriifera* than to *C. attenuata*. However, it is quite distinct from both of them as the salient features of these 3 species, tabulated below, suggest.

<i>C. fimbriifera</i>	<i>C. noorjahaniae</i>	<i>C. attenuata</i>
1. Cymes peduncled, 1-4-flowered.	Cymes peduncled, 1-3-flowered.	Cymes sessile or minutely peduncled, uni-flowered.
2. Peduncles 5-25 mm long, glabrescent to glabrous.	Peduncles 3-4 mm long, glabrescent to glabrous.	Peduncle 1-2 mm long, hairy.
3. Flowers 2.5-4.0 cm long.	Flowers 2-2.7 cm long.	Flowers up to 7.5 cm long.